Message Text

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R 082253Z JAN 75 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, CG

SUBJECT: FY 75 IV PROGRAM - MOUKANDA LUNYAMA

REF: STATE 283972

- 1. WHILE PROCESSING MOUKANDA REIMBURSEMENT VOUCHER, DEPTOFF DISCOVERED THAT GRANTEE USED GRATIS PAN AM "TRIP PASS" RATHER THAN NORMAL TICKET FOR BRUSSELS-NY FLIGHT. TRIP PASS IS ALMOST IDENTICAL TO PASSENGER TICKET, BUT IS NORMALLY USED ONLY BY AIRLINE EMPLOYEES. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THIS DURING TELEPHONE CONVERSATION, MOUKANDA SAID HE HAD CREDIT ARRANGEMENT WITH AIR ZAIRE IN WHICH HE IS BILLED EVERY SIX MONTHS AND, THEREFORE, HE DID NOT HAVE PROPER RECEIPT AVAILABLE. HE CLAIMED THAT AIR ZAIRE HAD WORKING AGREEMENT WITH PAN AM WHEREBY HE RECEIVED FREE TICKET FROM PAN AM WHICH WOULD BE BILLED BY AIR ZAIRE IN CUSTOMARY MANNER.
- 2. DESPITE THIS IMPLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION, DEPTOFF TOLD MOUKANDA THAT DEPT COULD REIMBURSE HIM FOR BRUSSELS-NY FLIGHT ONLY AFTER RECEIVING RECEIPT INDICATING PAYMENT. LACKING ABOVE, REIMBURSEMENT FOR THAT PORTION OF TRAVEL COULD NOT BE MADE. ("CREDIT ARRANGEMENT" STORY APPEARS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HIGHLY DUBIOUS SINCE MOUKANDA PAID CASH FOR HIS ROUND TRIP

AIR ZAIRE TICKET KINSHASA-BRUSSELS-KINSHASA.)

- 3. MOUKANDA WAS ALSO TOLD THAT RETURN FLIGHT TO KINSHASA VIA EUROPE COULD ONLY BE REIMBURSED IF GRANTEE USES AMERICAN CARRIER. SINCE GRANTEE MAY LEAVE DIRECTLY FROM CANADA RATHER THAN TRANSIT U.S. TO PICK UP AMERICAN AIRLINE, REIMBURSEMENT, IF ANY, CANNOT BE MADE UNTIL MOUKANDA ARRIVES IN KINSHASA AND PRESENTS VALID RECEIPTS.
- 4. IN VIEW OF ABOVE CIRCUMSTANCES, DEPT IS SUSPENDING ACTION ON GRANT AMENDMENT UNTIL MATTER IS SETTLED RE (1) FREE TICKET AND (2) RETURN TRAVEL. KISSINGER

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